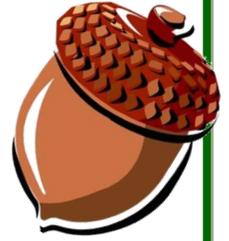


The Acorn

March 2023



Monthly publication of The Oak Chapel United Methodist Church
4203 West Old Lincoln Way • Wooster, OH 44691
330-264-2537 • www.oakchapelumc.com

Prepare for a Pilgrimage of Prayer

March is best known as the month that “comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.” It is also the month that provides a dramatic transformation from the cold, dark days of winter to the bright, warm days of spring.

How fitting is it then that March is also the month when we transition from the agonizing days of the cross to the glorious days of the resurrection in the season we refer to as Lent?

March may be sorely lacking in pizzazz, but it does provide an opportunity for preparation, and in many ways, that’s what Lent is all about. With that in mind, I would like to invite you to join with me in a 40-day pilgrimage of prayer and reflection.

I think it’s fair to say that we all need prayer more than ever before. With each passing day, it is becoming increasingly clear that our problems are well beyond our ability to address, let alone solve them.

So I invite all of you to covenant with me as we bolster our prayer life this Lenten season. I’m not sure exactly how this will play out — I’ll let God guide us through it — but I would like to invite all of you along for the ride.

Prayer is a healthy spiritual habit, just like reading Scripture and engaging in daily devotions and periodic service projects. The more we pray, the closer we become to God, and as the Bible tells us, “if God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)

We need his guidance and wisdom for many reasons, not the least of which is the decline of our church’s influence in the world today. In many respects, we have turned away from Him, and we need to turn back to Him for guidance, wisdom, and encouragement. The most direct way to do that is through prayer.

Let us begin with prayer for those in our church and those in our community who are dealing with physical pain, limited mobility, and fading memories. May God comfort and heal the afflicted.

Let us also pray for those who are worried, anxious, depressed, and despondent.

May God encourage and inspire them, and may we take time to lift them up, ease their burden, and bring them joy.

Let us pray for those who are without adequate food, shelter, and financial resources. We know that they are present in our community and also around the world.

Let us lift up those whose lives have been decimated by war, violence, and natural disasters, particularly in places like Syria and Turkey, where a major earthquake has resulted in a devastating death toll and untold suffering.

Let us pray for our young people. Never has a generation been faced with more choices and less spiritual support. May God help us to develop a proper course of action and then empower us to implement a plan.

Let us lift up the leaders of our nation and of nations around the world. Many seem to have lost sight of their role as servants who are put in positions of authority, not to incite conflict but to inspire common ground.

Let us also pray for our enemies that we might overcome that which separates us and move toward that which unites us.

This gives us a start, but there is so much more we can pray for. In fact, there is no limit to the pleas we can make to our Lord, but let us not lose sight of the opportunity to also offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving. We have so much for which to be thankful, and we should never lose sight of that.

March may be a long, lackluster month, but it doesn’t have to be without purpose.

Let us pray without ceasing, and celebrate His glorious resurrection, which brings us salvation when Lent culminates with the climactic observance of Easter Sunday.

Until we meet again,
Be Blessed!

Pastor John

Lenten Schedule

We will join with other churches for a series of Lenten Services on Sunday afternoons (4:00—5:00 pm) according to the following schedule:

- March 5 Oak Chapel UMC
- March 12 New Pittsburg UMC
- March 19 Church of the Cross UMC
- March 26 Moreland UMC
- April 2 Smithville UMC
- April 7 Oak Chapel UMC—Good Friday
Community Cantata at 7:00 pm

Oak Chapel is on the Air!

MCTV is replaying an abbreviated (30-minute) playback of our Sunday service each week. Feel free to tune in, or invite a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or family member to do likewise. Here is the schedule for each week on Channel 22.

Sunday: 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm

Wednesday: 11:00 am

Thursday: 4:30 pm

Friday: 11:30 am

Channel 621 - Sunday: 9:00 am

Feed My Sheep

Oak Chapel will continue to collect food on the first Sunday of each month as we come to the Lord's table. Food collected now will help support our in-house food pantry. Any surplus items will be shared with People to People Ministries.

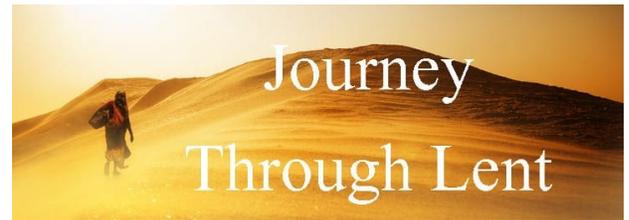


Easter Flowers

Would you like to help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter? Lilies, tulips, daffodils, and bulb gardens are available for \$11 each. They may be given in honor or in memory of a special person or event in your life. Deadline to order is March 13. An order form is enclosed in the mailed copy of the Acorn or attached to the email copy or available in the Narthex.



Acorn Submissions—The next issue is **April 2023**.
Deadline is March 15.



Lent began on Ash Wednesday and is a solemn religious observance in the liturgical calendar commemorating the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry.

Maundy Thursday Join us for a *Prayer and Self Denial* service of worship on Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 6:00 pm. We will begin with a sacrificial meal of soup with crackers that will help remind us of Jesus' Passover meal with his disciples.

Good Friday Cantata—7:00 pm

Once Upon a Tree by Pepper Choplin, will be sung by members of Wooster area UMCs. Join us at Oak Chapel for this meaningful expression on our road to the Cross.

Financial Information

Tithes and Offerings needed each Sunday for budgeted expenses (January 2023): \$1,969
Received last month: 01/01: \$570.00
01/08: \$3,925.00 01/15: \$3,482.00
01/22: \$260.00 01/29: \$3,268.00
As of 1/31/2023, we received about 117% of our budgeted income for January. We are ahead of last year at this time, which was 70%. The positive bump is likely related to the weather over Christmas. The Food Pantry is in the black. We're still making a difference.
Thank you Oak Chapel! Stuart Mykrantz



Spend the First Seven Minutes Each Day with God

1. Take 1/2 minute to focus. Pray Psalm 5:3. Thank God for a night of rest and opportunities of the day. Be still in God's presence.
 2. Read the Bible for 4 minutes. Be open and receptive and expect to meet God in the Word. Mark's Gospel is a good place to start.
 3. Pray for 2 1/2 minutes using ACTS—
 - ♥ **Adorations**—Reflect on God's sovereignty, power and majesty. Reflect on God's love and share your love with God.
 - ♥ **Confession**—Give to God all the places you feel you have fallen short—all those things that make you less than you know you can be. Be honest, this is between you and God alone.
 - ♥ **Thanksgiving**—Tell God all that you are grateful for in your life—mention your family, job, ministries, your church. Also thank God for difficulties and hardships and for being with you in those difficulties.
 - ♥ **Supplication**—Ask God to intervene in the lives of others and in the circumstances of your own life. Picture people as you name them. Be specific. Pray, believing!
- Total: 7 minutes a Day—with God. Have a good day!

Mission u 2023—July 21/22—Mt Union University

Great news— COMMUNITY is God's desire for us! Please join us at Mission u as we reflect on the community that Jesus is calling us to be! Our study this year is *Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation*.

Jesus' teachings in the Gospels proclaim the good news of the kin-dom or reign (basileia) of God. In fact, Jesus mentions the kin-dom 90 times in the Synoptic Gospels! What does the Bible tell us about God's basileia and why do we call it the kin-dom? For Jesus, the kin-dom was not simply something to talk about but something we could live and experience. From the Lord's Prayer to the beatitudes to the parables, this good news is at the heart of Jesus' preaching, teaching and ministry.

Come! Let's explore together the heart of Jesus' good news and what fresh vision it offers us as we seek to be in mission today.

All women and girls who have finished the 2nd grade through 12th grade are invited. Remember that the Youth and Children's studies are independent, meaty and fun events—not just tag-alongs for your children and grandchildren. Do our young people know why they should connect with the church? Mission u is a wonderful way to build this connection.



Pastor John is leading a study of the Book of Revelation. The group meets at 9:30 am on Monday mornings in the Gathering Grounds downstairs. We welcome new participants.

Young Adults meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 11:30 am in the Gathering Grounds. Anyone is welcome to join us!

Youth Group: 1st and 3rd Sundays at 6:30 pm

The Chosenness Bible Study group, meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. The Bible is the sole source for the study. The group is currently discussing repentance. The discussions are designed to be comfortable for those who actively participate and for those choosing to reflect silently. All are welcome! Leader is Bruce Bloch.

"Surprised by Hope," by Biblical scholar N.T. Wright. The book and the study will reveal the full scope of what God's Word has to say about heaven and the hope the gospel holds for the present life. All are welcome to the remaining sessions at 9:30 am in the Sing-Mar room.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jan Kauffman
- 4 Kevin Horst
Sandy Treece
- 6 Bill Braucher
- 7 Stephanie Long
- 14 China Bower
- 21 Cameron Boyer
- 23 Dale Ring
- 28 Robin Kitchen
- 30 Hilda Wacker

MARCH ANIVERSARIES

- 4 Cheryl and Jim Rastetter
- 18 Carol and Steve Gossage
- 23 Zoe and Dale Ring



Wish your neighbor a Happy day!

This information comes from our membership database. Please contact the church office if there are any corrections or additions.

March is Sleep Awareness Month

Toss. Turn. TV. Read. Count sheep. One would think with all of those activities that sleep would be an easy thing to achieve. The truth is, as we grow older our lack of sleep increases, as does our need for the previously required eight hours each night. We are less active, therefore, we do not need as much sleep. We do, however, need good sleep so we can remain alert and refreshed.

There are problems that accompany lack of sleep or poor sleep. These include heart disease, elevated blood pressure, forgetfulness, being more prone to accidents and premature aging, to name only a few. Sleeping medications are helpful but not without possible side effects and dangers. They should be taken only under the supervision of your physician and never borrowed from a friend or family member.

Before you resort to medications, here is a list of simple things to try:

Daily exercise and/or meditation

Limit caffeine after 12 noon

Avoid heavy evening meals and alcohol

No naps after 3:00 pm and limit to less than 30 minutes

Devotions and evening prayer

Cool room temperature

No TV, computer, phone, electronic screens at least one hour before bedtime. The blue light emitted from these screens suppresses our natural melatonin.

Keep a regular bedtime schedule, even on weekends.

If after 15 minutes of not falling asleep, get up, read, listen to gentle music for 15 minutes and then try going back to bed. Repeat this as necessary.

Sweet dreams, friends.

United Women in Faith has two baking and gift giving fundraisers now available.

Nuts and Snacks

and

RADA Knives and Kitchen Tools

- ♥ You may order 24/7, 365 days a year.
- ♥ Both links are on the home page of Oak Chapel's website, oakchapelumc.com
- ♥ Proceeds will support our mission projects.
- ♥ You can pick up a postcard in the Narthex with more information.
- ♥ If you have questions or would like help ordering, please ask Elizabeth Feldman.

ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday, March 25, 2023, 5-7pm

In Fellowship Hall



Open to all ages.

No entry fee.

Cash prizes for the top three places.

Freewill offering at the door.

Chili must be at the church by 4:30pm.

See the church calendar for additional details.

Sponsored by United Methodist Men.



Monday, March 6

Art & Soul meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. This group meets to craft for about an hour.

We will continue to make bead necklaces for our Christmas Shoe Boxes.

Evangelism is merely God working through us.

Team members have been making calls and reaching out to prospective members and existing church members who have not been attending services in recent years. We have seen the return of church members to services and to Sunday Bible Study. We have also had prospective members attend Sunday Bible Study and Sunday Services. The Evangelism Team is very encouraged by the results of our calls, and we had a number of guests at our "Gather Together Sunday."



UNITED METHODIST MEN **March 11 at 8:00 am** at **Ebenezer Lodge**, 140 N Market St. There will be an all you can eat breakfast and we will begin at 8 am and can stay and visit as long as we want. All men and boys are welcome. Mark your calendar for the 2nd Saturday of each month.

The Days for Girls Team will meet March 14 and 28, 1:30-3:30 pm in the room directly across from the church office. We are making progress toward getting another shipment of kits out. We would love to have new participants in this outreach ministry to girls in underdeveloped countries. We also welcome monetary donations to help cover the cost of materials and shipping.

Join us the second and fourth Tuesdays.

To view our **CALENDAR**, please visit our website—oakchapelumc.com—

Oak Chapel UWF has Layettes available for you to share with new mothers in our community. Pick one up in the room across from the office and sign the appropriate list, or contact Robin Kitchen if you would like help. Supply donations are also appreciated.

Oak Chapel United Methodist Church Leadership Teams for 2023 and 2024

Administrative Council - Meets five times annually
 Chair Bob Troutman
 Lay Leaders..... Greg Cantrell and Doug Henshaw
 Lay Delegate..... Elizabeth Feldman
 Treasurer Bill Braucher
 United Methodist Men Captain Bill Braucher
 United Women in Faith Captain Phyllis Weaver
 Finance Captain..... Stuart Mykrantz
 Finance Secretary..... Elizabeth Feldman
 At-Large..... Bruce Bloch

Team Captains:

Christian EducationApril Aten
 Evangelism.....Steve Moore
 History and Records..... Alice Giffin
 Membership Care..... Rosie Troutman
 Memorials..... Cheryl Rastetter
 NominationsPastor John Finn
 Outreach.... Cindy Henshaw and Karen Cantrell
 PantryConnie Reed
 Staff Parish Relations Joyce Varns
 Trustees..... Dick Wiley
 Worship and MusicKim Domer
 Youth..... J.J. Cline and Jen Moser

Trustees Meets third Monday of each month
 Dick Wiley, Captain

Members: Greg Cantrell, Stuart Mykrantz, Blair Shallenberger, Cathy Shallenberger, Gene Varns, Joyce Varns, Miriam Zech, Pastor John Finn

Acorn Newsletter: Elizabeth Feldman, Captain
 Team Member: Carolyn Lilburn

Audit Team Darrell Moser, Captain

Other teams meet quarterly.

Christian Education.....April Aten, Captain
 Members: Bruce Bloch, Jen Moser, JJ Cline, Beth Gaubatz

EvangelismSteve Moore, Captain
 Members: JJ Cline, Caroline Lilburn, Becky Schlund, Bruce Bloch

Finance..... Stuart Mykrantz, Captain
 Members: Bill Braucher, Elizabeth Feldman, Darrell Moser

Food PantryConnie Reed, Captain
 Members: Carol Gossage, Cindy Mykrantz, Rosie Troutman

History and Records.....Alice Giffin, Captain
 Member: Miriam Zech

Memorials Cheryl Rastetter, Captain
 Members: Alice Giffin, Joyce Varns

Membership Care Rosie Troutman, Captain
 Members: Karen Cantrell, Evelyn Silver, Cheryl Rastetter, Joyce Varns, Phyllis Weaver

Nominations Pastor John Finn, Captain
 Members:..... April Aten, Pam Domer, Carol Gossage, Cindy Mykrantz

Outreach .. Karen Cantrell and Cindy Henshaw,
 Co-Captains: .Members: Pam Domer, Connie Garg, Cathy Shallenberger, Joyce Varns, Phyllis Weaver

Staff-Parish Relations..... Joyce Varns, Captain
 Members: April Aten, Pam Domer, Carol Gossage, Doug Henshaw

Worship and Music.....Kim Domer, Captain
 Members: Sandy Treece, Jen Moser, Tom Rife

Youth JJ Cline and Jen Moser, Captains
 Members: Cyndi Boyer, Erica Boyer, Lauren Cline, Beth Gaubatz.



ACORN Newsletter
 Oak Chapel United Methodist Church
 4203 West Old Lincoln Way
 Wooster, OH 44691-3239
<http://www.oakchapelumc.com>



WE INVITE YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:30 a.m.
Young Adult SS	11:30 a.m.

Oak Chapel United Methodist Church

“Serving Christ and Community through Love, Compassion, Fellowship and Caring”

Rev. John Finn Pastor
 Sheri Finn Secretary
 Jen Moser..... Organist and Choir Director
 Miriam ZechCustodian
Church Phone330-264-2537
 Pastor John’s Cell Phone.....330-988-2577

E-mail addresses:

pastor@oakchapelumc.com office@oakchapelumc.com

Visit our website: www.oakchapelumc.com

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK! CHECK US OUT!

CANAL DISTRICT OFFICE

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 Rev. Angela Lewis, District Superintendent
 Megan Myers, Administrative Assistant